webchat.state.gov

5月30日: 签证官直通热线 -- View Transcript

05-30-2008 03:05:44

Moderator: 谢谢你的到来, 请提交问题.

05-30-2008 03:18:56

Moderator: 谢谢大家来到这里, 请提交问题.

Webchat Guest: thanks

05-30-2008 03:31:18

Chat Participant: 签证官您好!

如果已经获得了美国非移民的公务活动签证,但是因为这段时间我们单位工作很忙,我的上司要求我放弃这次去美国的文化交流演出活动.也就是说,我已经申请到的 P 类签证没有在有效期内使用的话,会影响我以后再次申请美国的签证吗?会不会下次申请签证的时候被拒签啊?谢谢!

Webchat Guest: if your visa was issued after 11/15/2007, you may be eligible to renew your visa without coming in for personal interview or fingerprints. You can consult our website non-immigrant visa page to see if you can use the Citic Bank renewal option.

05-30-2008 03:32:28

Hunters: Hello, I was invited by a big IT company of US to attend their workshop and forum from July.14th to 18th, but Shanghai Embassy has already reserved me interview of July. 31st, that will be late for US trip, how can I push them as a urgent one and reschedule to earlier time, who should I contact with? Thank you very much. --Hunter

Webchat Guest: please consult Shanghai's website for instructions on submitting a request to expedite your visa interview for urgent business travel. And remember, in the summer season especially, everyone should apply early!

05-30-2008 03:33:30

John R: I have a Chinese friend who works for a cruise line. He's back in China now, and must return to work in Ft Lauderdale on July 17. His transit visa allows only 72 hours in the US. We'd like him be our guest for a week before he has to go to work. How can the visa be changed to allow a longer stay? Thanks.

Webchat Guest: he should apply for a B1/B2 visa in addition to his transit visa. That way he can visit the U.S. as a tourist when he's not working.

05-30-2008 03:35:05

Chat Participant: Dear Visa Officer, I am a graduate student in a U.S. university. My family was refused once for B2 visa application in Beijing this year. We would like to apply for B2 visa again, and I read from the embassy website that visa applications are not restrained even if the person has been refused once. However, I found there is no openning slot in Beijing for second time applications such as this, not even for people who were refused once in February or March 2008. Could you please help us with this? We are just hoping for a chance of family reunion during summer holidays, after August my family would have to go back to work and wouldn't be able to come here... Could you please help with this? Or give us some suggestions? Many thanks! Sincerely, Camille

Webchat Guest: you must make appointments through the visa call center in Shanghai. If there are no appointments available in time, you may have to keep checking or to make other travel plans. As I said earlier, there are so many people who want visa interviews that everyone must apply early.

05-30-2008 03:36:57

ocas: 中国公民如果想去旅游的话,除了参加旅行团之外,还有其他途径吗?

Webchat Guest: yes, we welcome individual travelers as well as tour groups. In fact more and more Chinese are finding they enjoy traveling on their own. If you would like to visit the U.S. on your own, you can apply for a visitor visa. You should be able to describe your plans for travel to the U.S.

05-30-2008 03:38:05

Chat Participant: My son studis in the primary school in Beijing, and wants to attend the summer camp in USA in 20 July by himself only. Is it possible for him to get the visa approveld before the end of June? The invitation and confirmation of payment in hand now. Interview register No.0880 5233 5445 -7 --applicant:WENLUJIA passport No.G18017239 It would be appreciated if you can give the reply. Thanks sincerely WENJING

Webchat Guest: you or your son should check with the Embassy Beijing website to see about the procedures for expediting a student visa interview. This is the busiest time of year for students, so please apply early everyone.

05-30-2008 03:40:02

Chat Participant:

尊敬的签证官您好,在这里我想向您请教一个问题,中国企业对美国的商务考察现在为什么很难办理签证,因为我和我的朋友准备前往美国考察一个项目,但在签证的时候被拒绝了,我想问下您,我们是合格的中国公民,而且有充分的财力以及理由是过美国考察项目,在广州领事馆看都没有看我们的资料就拒绝了我们,这是正常的么?我跟我的朋友都是中国的企业法人及总经理,难道我们会放弃我们在中国的生意和家人以及家产到美国偷渡么?我们也有美国邀请方的邀请涵以及安排好的时间,我觉得这样对我们去美国考察项目投资的中国企业不公平,因为我们是过去考察投资,是为美国政府交税,我也希望你们能够了解和明白我们的心情,谢谢您,打扰到您很抱歉.

Webchat Guest: I can't answer questions about your specific situation, but I can tell you that many people reapply with more evidence of their situation and receive visas. Every person's situation is different.

05-30-2008 03:42:13

Chat Participant: 我是先申请高中交换生签证 然后 老师又介绍给我一个学校 所以又报名到这个学校留学 我都得到了入学通知 然后 是先浅这个自费留学的 学校 不知道可以不可以如果 这个 F1 签证我没有签过 在一个月内 去签交换生签证 也就是 J1 的

Webchat Guest: you can apply for either the F1 visa or the J1 visa depending on which program you want to attend. I encourage you to apply for the J1 visa since the exchange student program is a great experience.

05-30-2008 03:43:32

Chat Participant:

尊敬的签证官,您好,我申请的是美国商务签证,是 4 月 9 号面试,被通知要进行背景调查,大约需要 1 个月,但是现在还没有任何结果,我想了解一下是什么原因,谢谢您!

Webchat Guest : please send a fax to the NIV Unit in Guangzhou to inquire about your case status. 3884-4424

05-30-2008 03:46:50

www.yahoo.com.cn2:

想请问一下广州现在有那些旅行社是领事馆授权可以组团到美国旅游的呢?除了旅行社之外,是否有出国中介公司获得领事馆授权呢?谢谢!

Webchat Guest: the list of approved travel agencies for travel under the Memorundum of Understanding on group leisure travel -- from the China National Tourism Administration -- is being finalized and will be released this coming week. There will be more than 100 agencies in Guangdong province authorized to participate. Please check our website next week for the list.

05-30-2008 03:49:40

Chat Participant: 妳好 我的護照是"中華民國

臺灣"護照,我目前在北京居住,我打算 2009 年暑假帶兒子到美國遊玩,本來打算最近提出簽證申請,但是看到貴網站的資訊,好像在北京簽到的簽證都是一年多次(臺灣大部分是五年多次),所以就不知是否應該按預定最近申請,擔心如果是拿到一年多次的話,在明年還沒出發前,簽證就過期了!是否可告知可簽到簽證年限,以及最合適的提出時間? 謝謝!! freud yang

Webchat Guest: you should apply for your visa well in advance of your trip -- maybe 3 months or so. It's really up to you, just indicate on the application when you plan to travel. It's most important not to apply too late.

05-30-2008 03:51:25

www.yahoo.com.cn2:

作为国家旅游局批准的出境社是否需要向领馆提出申请以便享有团体旅游签证的便利?

Webchat Guest: U.S. visa policies have not changed. You will still need to apply for a visitor visa if you are traveling with a tour company under this program. However, the tour company can make group interview appointments and the tour leader can escort you to the consulate for your interviews.

05-30-2008 03:51:50

Chat Participant: Dear Madam: I want to apply for F-1 visa. My permenant residence is in China. But I am now a student in Hongkong Polytechnic University since last December. I have been in Hongkong for more than 6 months. Before that I am studying in Xi'an for several years. So I would like to know which is better for me to apply the F-1 visa, in Hongkong or in Beijing. Thank you very much!

Webchat Guest: either is ok, depends on your preference.

05-30-2008 03:52:59

Chat Participant: Hi, I have an actual question about my visas. I plan to US as a visiting scholar in a university in Nov. 1, 2008 (I think it needs a J-1 visa). But before my visiting, I have to attend a conference held in Honolulu, Oct. 12~18 (I think it needs a B-1 visa) and will to return to China right after the conference. So, since my two entrances to US are quite close, how could I apply for my visas? May I apply for two visas in a single interview? What can I do then? Thanks a lot and looking forward to your helpful reply.

Webchat Guest: yes, you can apply for both visas at the same time. But you need to fill out two forms and pay two application fees. Be sure to explain that you are applying for 2 visas when you get to the consulate.

05-30-2008 03:54:49

timo: About the MOU signed by US and Chian, could you tell me which two travel agencies have the right to bring travelers to the US? If my parents work in US, can I, currently a college student get the visa to travel to the US?

Webchat Guest: the list of approved travel agencies will be released soon. There will be more than 400 approved agencies in China. If you want to go on a family visit, this is probably not the program for you. This is for group tours. So you should probably apply for a regular visitor visa for individual travel to visit your family.

05-30-2008 03:55:22

Chat Participant: Why is visa checking process taking so long right now? My wife has to delay her flight twice to wait for her visa. Thanks.

Webchat Guest: the busiest time of the year is summer, when students apply and lots of people take vacations to the U.S. be sure to apply early.

05-30-2008 03:55:55

Chat Participant: Hi. My one-year B2 visa (multiple entries)will expire on July 22 this year,can I enter the US on July 17 and come back to China a month later?

Webchat Guest: You just need to enter the U.S. prior to the expiration of your visa. The Department of Homeland Security will tell you how long you are permitted to stay in the U.S. at the time of entry.

05-30-2008 03:56:37

Chat Participant:

你好,我姨妈和姨夫全家,在美国冰洲生活,已得到美国公民身份,从事医生工作。现邀请她的妈妈(我的祖母),姐姐(我的母亲)和我去探亲。我们最多去一个月,请问是否能够获得签证?如果可以如何申请?

Webchat Guest: you are welcome to apply for a visa at any time. For instructions, please consult our website.

05-30-2008 03:58:18

candy2: 请问你们打算在广州开设美国各个州的旅游局或者办事处吗?

Webchat Guest: each state makes the decision about where to open tourism offices. I know there are some states that have offices in Beijing, but I don't know if any have offices in Guangzhou. You could check the official website of each state's tourist bureau to find out where the overseas offices are.

05-30-2008 03:58:19

Chat Participant: Hello; I'm studying in Weston Oregon University of USA. I'm going back to China in summer break. My visa will be expired at Nov 29th,2008. I would like to renew it during my summer break in China. Because I would like to visit my fiance in TaiWan during Christmas 2008, then go back to USA. Is that ok to renew your visa even the visa hasn't expired yet. thanks~

Webchat Guest: You do not need to wait until your current visa expires before applying for a new one. Your first visa will be cancelled when the second one is issued.

05-30-2008 03:59:36

ivycao: 签证官你好,团组旅游签证预约时是否有人数的最低限制?

Webchat Guest : to apply for the visa, there is no minimum number of applicants in the group. It depends on the travel agency's policies.

05-30-2008 03:59:36

Chat Participant: Form DS 157 asks if the applicant has made specific travel arrangement. Is it a good idea to purchase flight ticket before an applicant was approved for his/her B2 visa?

Webchat Guest: no, you can reserve a flight but don't purchase a ticket before you have your visa.

05-30-2008 04:01:53

BAI XIAOBING:

符合广东常住的所有客人是否都可以申请美国团组旅游签证?还是一定要是广东签发的护照才可以在广东申请此类签证?

Webchat Guest : if your passport is issued in Guangdong province (or one of the other 8 provinces for the first phase), you can participate in the group tours during the first phase. Later we hope the program will extend to all provinces of China.

05-30-2008 04:02:37

Chat Participant: 你好...我是航空服务有限公司的....请问是否有幸能为贵使馆提供票务服务呢? **Webchat Guest**: thank you but that is not my area of expertise!

05-30-2008 04:04:38

Chat Participant: 以本人为例,

2006年合法进入美国,目前以F1身份在美读书,但签证已于2007年1月过期,本人持有

有效的 I 2 0 和护照。我的儿子目前 3 岁半。我可否使用免面谈代传递服务为其申请赴美签证? 多谢

Webchat Guest : no, you have to have an interview and submit fingerprints at a consulate or the Embassy when you come back to China.

05-30-2008 04:04:59

Chat Participant: I'm Mr.Yu Liang ,the organzier of China Pavilion for a trade show (July 15-17) in USA. My chinese exhibitors are going to have a visa-interview by the end June, but they are informed that the nearst interview should be on 20.July after the show. the questions are: 1, When should the exhibitors apply for a visa interview, 1 month before the show? 2,do the exhibitors have any chance obtaining the early interview time, if they can't get the visa interview on time?

Webchat Guest: your exhibitors should check the instructions on the website of the consulate where they want to apply to see what he procedures are for requesting expedited interviews.

05-30-2008 04:06:54

Celia2:

签证官你好。请问现在还有签证领区这一说吗?我朋友是在上海的,但是前一段上海没有签证的空位置了,签证预约电话就帮她定北京了。是以后都可以跨领区签证吗?还是个别时候有特例?谢谢

Webchat Guest : no, normally each applicant should apply in his or her own consular district. Please remember to apply as early as possible!

05-30-2008 04:07:29

www.yahoo.com.cn2: Dear Visa Officer, I was admitted to MBA in US and I am going to apply to a F1 visa. Is it O.K. for me to call the center to make an appointment after 2 weeks for Guangzhou interview. Is it too late?

Webchat Guest: That depends on when you plan to start the program. There are limits on how far in advance of the beginning of the program you can enter the United States. Please see our website for more details on obtaining an F1 visa.

05-30-2008 04:08:47

raymond2:

签证官您好,请问赴美 ADS 签证的材料要求有哪些?哪些旅行社可代理团组休闲旅游预约?

Webchat Guest: the visa qualifications have not changed. Each applicant must show that he or she qualifies by showing that he or she has a good, stable situation in China and will return home after the tour. The visa is still a visitor (B1/B2) visa.

05-30-2008 04:10:36

candy2: 我们全家人打算在明年春节去夏威夷玩,请问你们接受我们申请自助游的签证吗?

Webchat Guest: you can apply for your visitor visas by following the instructions on the website, nonimmigrant visa page.

05-30-2008 04:11:01

Chat Participant: I'm an MBA student. Last year I attend the exchange student program(finance by myself only) and came back from U.S this January(program is from Sep,2007-

Dec,2007,holding J1 visa). Now I'm planning to attend full time master program in U.S next year(after graduation or suspend 1 year study)to get an degree which will benifit my career a lot in China. My question: Do I need to abey the 2-year rule or submit J1-waiver application to my embassy based in U.S to transfer to F1 visa next year?

Webchat Guest: The documentation from your prior visa application should indicate whether you were subject to the two-year rule. If you were subject, then you will need to apply for a waiver.

05-30-2008 04:13:05

Chat Participant:

你好!我的妻子现在在美国皇家加勒比邮轮公司工作。她将于6月14日回国,她想预约6月16

日签证并让我代她预约签证时间。我想知道我应该什么提前几天预约好,另外,我想请教,她去年是从澳大利亚登船,所以在澳大利亚大使馆签过境签证.这次她去美国登船,是否只需签 D 证而不需签美国的 C1 证了呢?谢谢!

Webchat Guest: She needs both the C1 visa (transit to join the ship) and D visa (crew member). I'm sorry to tell you that if she hasn't made an appointment yet, June 16 is not possible. Please call the Shanghai call center as soon as possible to book your interview date. There are very few appointments left in June.

05-30-2008 04:14:48

ocas: Dear Officer, I had the visa interview on 05/23/2008 and my visa was approved. According to the China Post counter, the visa would be mailed to me on 05/28/2008 and would reach me on 05/29/2008. However, I have not received my passport so far. I called the Junyuan post office to inquire about my mail. They told me that they have not received my passport from the U.S. Embassy yet. Is there any way that I could check in approximately when I will be able to get my passport and visa? Thanks!

Webchat Guest: There are occasionally circumstances that require the delay of visa issuance after it has been approved. Please check our website for instructions on how to contact the Consulate regarding the status of your visa.

05-30-2008 04:15:40

Celia2:

尊敬的签证官,请问团组旅游签证预约的时候,能否把拒签不超过2年同首次赴美的客人放在一起?面试时间是否相同?

Webchat Guest: everyone participating in the authorized group tour together will interview at the same window, but they will each have their own interview and each will have to qualify individually.

05-30-2008 04:18:25

xianxian:

请问,团组预约的客人,是否等于团组旅游签证的预约?团组旅游签证的客人是否需要同一团队出发?

Webchat Guest: It's really up to the travel agency to arrange both the interview for the visas and the flight to the U.S. It could be possible that some people from different tours with the same agency go to the consulate together for interview. If you qualify for a U.S. visa, it's up to you when you travel.

05-30-2008 04:18:42

xianxian: What are the qualities for appling B2 visa to the U.S. in the coming June, 2008? **Webchat Guest**: You must first demonstrate that your purpose for visiting the United States is allowed under the visa you are seeking (for example, you are planning to go to the U.S. to visit relatives, you are not planning on working or studying). Next, you must demonstrate that you have sufficient ties to China that would compel you to return after your temporary stay in the U.S. U.S. law requires that we consider you an intending immigrant until you prove to the satisifaction of the visa officer that you are not.

05-30-2008 04:20:29

crystalwu: 1. 曾经拒签和未拒签过的客人能否一起送进去? 且预约的时间会不会是一样? 2. 符合广东常居住地的所有客人,是否都可以申请? 且广东常居住地的标准是怎么定义? 3. 团组预约的客人,是否有同一团出发的要求? 4. 团组预约,是否等于团组旅游签证? 除了团组旅游预约之外的旅游签证? 是否等于个人旅游签证?

Webchat Guest: Hi Crystal! under the regulations, it's ok for people who have been refused before to join these groups. However, each applicant will have to qualify for his or her own visa, just the same as before. As far as Guangdong residence, we check the place the current passport was issued.

05-30-2008 04:21:35

快乐人人: 如果是广州户口, 但是护照是广西签发的, 客人采取团组旅游预约吗?

Webchat Guest: I believe you have to get a new passport that is issued in Guangzhou to be eligible for the first phase of the program. But later it will be open to all of China.

05-30-2008 04:21:42

xianxian: Dear consulate officer, I'm on H1B visa, and it's only good for 3 month for Chinese passport holders. I heard from another consulate officer that I can renew H1B visa anywhere in the world. However, last time when I went to Mexico to renew my visa, the consulate officer there strongly discourage me to apply it in Mexico, and suggest me to apply in China. I need to travel for my job, and it's really hard if it's even possible to fly back to China first each time before my business travel. Thanks

Webchat Guest: You can certainly apply outside of China, but it can be difficult for a visa officer in Mexico, for example, to fully evaluate your situation and you may be denied a visa. Therefore, it is recommended that you apply in your home country.

05-30-2008 04:23:21

xianxian: Is there a telephone number that we could call to consult about our visa process? Thanks!

Webchat Guest : In Guangzhou, we don't have a public information service by phone. You can call the shanghai call center for information as well as appointment scheduling.

05-30-2008 04:24:36

Chat Participant: 我是一名高中生,毕业后想去美国深造由于英语不是很好 IELTS

5.0, 现在拿到的 OFFER 是语言学校和大学的双录取在 5 月 22 日被拒签, 下次签证排到了 7 月 7 日, 由于我的 I-

20 上写的是 6 月 23 日开学,面谈时间赶不及开学,因此申请了加急面谈,得到批准的几率大吗? **Webchat Guest**: you need to check the website to find instructions for expediting a student visa interview. In Guangzhou, we have plenty of student appointments open in June.

05-30-2008 04:26:11

Chat Participant: Hello,this question is kind of emergency. I am studying in a College now, and I will back to China in June, and i also have to renew my VISA in this summer. My visa has expired for 6 months. Is the grade report must submitted? Do you have any requirement of the grade? what about if i took 4 courses,grades are: one A, one B, two C? what could happened in this situation? Could you give me some suggestion?

Webchat Guest: There is no specific requirement that you submit your grade report at the time of interview or that you have a specific grade point average. However, you should be prepared to demonstrate to the visa officer that you are a legitimate student and your transcripts could be one way of doing this.

05-30-2008 04:26:16

Celia2: Dear Madam, I'm so glad to talk to you here. My name is Lily. Now I'm applying as an Au Pair to the U.S.A. through a private company. The organizer told me that visa for au pairs is of J-1. Is it? And is it very diffical to get a J-1 visa? As I was told the first visa for Chinese au pair is issued in 2006 in Guangzhou, is it? I want to learn English and experience American culture. People around me consider my English "good" but I want it to be "excellent". And I want to make sure the au pair program would help me get what I want. Therefore I come for help. Thank you Best regards Yours sincerely Lily

Webchat Guest: Yes, the Au Pair is one of the J1 exchange visitor categories. You should read about the requirements of this program on the state department website at www.travel.state.gov. I don't know if the first one was issued in Guangzhou but I know that we have issued many J1 visas to Chinese au pairs. It is a good program.

05-30-2008 04:27:43

crystalwu: how is the MOU TRACK is going on?

Webchat Guest: We have set aside appointments every day for travel agencies to make appointments under the MOU. The first big group from Guangzhou will leave on June 17. We hope the travel agency list will be released next week, so they can start marketing the trips and people can start making plans to join these tours.

05-30-2008 04:29:32

Moderator: It's about time. Please do not send questions from now on. We will have another webchat in mid June. Please check our website later for more information.

05-30-2008 04:30:36

Chat Participant: Dear officer, Thank you for your time to read my question. The school I have applied is required by law to document students finance of about \$16,000 for one year .The question is that if I need supply more money for getting a visa and how much it is.By the way,I have got \$8,000 for scholarship each year. Best wishes Violin

Webchat Guest: You are required to demonstrate to the visa officer that you have at least enough money available to pay for your first year of schooling and a credible plan for paying for the remaining years. Possible documentation would include letters from your school showing any funding they are providing you, bank records, job letters, etc.

05-30-2008 04:32:44

safetycar: hello, I will renew my F1 visa in June. Do I need to take the financial certificate? And do I need to pay the sevis fee again? Thanks

Webchat Guest: You should be prepared to demonstrate the ability to pay for one year's tuition at the time of interview. You do not need to pay the SEVIS fee again.

05-30-2008 04:32:49

crystalwu: Is it possible that my background will be checked after a visa is approved? Will there be any notification?

Webchat Guest: it's possible depending on the situation. If the case requires additional processing, the applicant will be informed at the interview.

05-30-2008 04:34:58

Chat Participant:

美国的签证政策近期会不会产生什么大的变化,签证官一般会在一个地区停留多久呢??谢谢~、

Webchat Guest : there are no big changes to U.S. visa policy, but procedures are always changing so keep checkign the website for instructions. We continue to process visas here in Guangzhou and at the other consulates in China as we have been for many years.

05-30-2008 04:35:37

Chat Participant: I plan to go to the States for a LLM degree from Sep 2009. May payment for the tuition fee and living expense required for this one-year degree comes from three sources: 1) my wages over the past one year (around 3-3.5 USD); 2) sale of a small apartment in my hometown Anhui (around 3 USD); 3) if necessary, the sponsorship granted by my current employer, or certain amount lent to me by some of my friends. Could you please answer or confirm several questions as follows: 1) Is my wage saved up to next June or July acceptable to cover my overseas study expenses? Or I can only use my wage saved up to earlier 2009 to show visa officers, as such amount has to be froze with the bank a few months in advance; 2)As my parents and I have relocated to Shanghai from 2001 and own an apartment in Shanghai from 2003 (I can submit evidence documents), won't the sale of the apartment in Anhui province impress visa officers that I won't get back to China and reject my application?; 3)Will the sponsorship from my employer or money lent by my friends be acceptable supports for me to apply for visa?

Webchat Guest: You should be prepared to demonstrate at the time of interview that you have sufficient savings to pay your expenses for the first year. At the time of interview, the visa officer will fully evaluate your situation and determine whether you are qualified to be issued a visa.

05-30-2008 04:35:48

bevchan: My cousin in mainland would like to visit us in the U.S. In filling out electronically and submitting the DS-156, is there a preference if it is submitted in English or Chinese? Also along with the DS-157, I was informed that my cousin also had to submit an I-134 which I need to fill out and mail to him, correct?

Webchat Guest : the DS-156 must be answered in English. You may submit a I134 but it is not a requirement for a visitor.

05-30-2008 04:37:11

crystalwu: shall we register in consulate for those unrer the manelist of CNTA

Webchat Guest: you don't have to register the travel agency, we will receive the same list. We will be working with the travel agencies on the list to get the lists of tour leaders or representatives who will come with the group applicants to apply for visas.

05-30-2008 04:38:19

Moderator: thanks to all for submitting such great questions! Please keep checking our website for updates on the MOU and other visa matters. And remember, apply early. Thanks, Karin and Tisha